



January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Justice Department
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Even though there is an underlying perception among consumers that Microsoft has been a little less than responsive to their needs, the government's lawsuit against Microsoft was overly ambitious. If the lawsuit had succeeded in its intent of breaking Microsoft apart into smaller, more malleable pieces, the ability for consumers or IT companies to get the full range of the Microsoft product line would have been seriously compromised.

Having said that, I believe that the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice is reasonable and addresses most of the serious concerns that many have had. It creates strong new demands for fairer licensing arrangements for hardware companies and an anti-retaliatory framework for software companies as well. I am hoping that the public will endorse this settlement through this public review process, and that we can all put this episode behind us.

I am further hopeful that no further federal action will be taken, in that I believe that it's important to move on. These are my personal views and do not necessarily reflect the views of the company I work for. Thank you for this opportunity to express my support of the settlement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur R. Ekroos".

Arthur R. Ekroos
Executive Vice President